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# Tsai Wan-lin

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 *In this **Chinese name**, the **family name** is **Tsai**.*

**Tsai Wan-lin** (**Chinese**: 蔡萬霖; **pinyin**: *Cài Wànlín*; 10 November 1924 – 27 September 2004) was a Taiwanese businessman who, at the peak of his wealth in 1996, was considered to be the fifth richest person in the world,<sup>[1]</sup> with a family net worth of US\$12.2 billion.<sup>[2]</sup> At the time of his death in 2004, he was the richest man in Taiwan with a fortune of US\$4.6 billion (NT\$156.3 billion), ranked 94th worldwide.<sup>[3]</sup> He founded the **Lin Yuan Group**, a large **banking** and **insurance** group.<sup>[4]</sup>

He was born into a poor **farmer**'s family in Chikunan Town, Chikunan District, **Shinchiku Prefecture, Japanese-era Taiwan** (modern-day **Zhunan**, **Miaoli County**). Tsai started out in **Taipei** by selling vegetables and soybeans with his brothers as a child.<sup>[5][6]</sup>

With one of his brothers Tsai joined Taipei's Tenth Credit Cooperative in 1960.<sup>[7]</sup> Two years later, they founded **Cathay Life Insurance**, which at the time of his death was the largest life insurance company in Taiwan.<sup>[5]</sup> Tenth Credit Cooperative was eventually transferred to Tsai Wan-lin's nephew **Tsai Chen-chou**.

The family split Cathay Life Insurance in 1979. Tsai Wan-lin founded the Lin Yuan Group with his share.<sup>[8][9]</sup> Over the next 10 years, the Lin Yuan Group expanded to become the largest Taiwanese conglomerate. **Cathay Financial Holdings**, a division of the Lin Yuan Group, became Taiwan's largest financial holding company.<sup>[10]</sup> Cathay Insurance was renamed Fubon Insurance in 1992.<sup>[11]</sup>

Tsai was first listed by Forbes as a billionaire in 1987.<sup>[12]</sup> He was appointed a senior adviser to the **president of the Republic of China** in 2000.<sup>[13]</sup>

He died of heart disease at the age of 81 in **Taipei**'s **Cathay General Hospital**, which he founded in 1977. He had been hospitalized for six years.<sup>[7][14]</sup> Tsai was married to Chou Pao-chin and had seven children.<sup>[15]</sup>

## See also

[ edit source ]

- List of billionaires**

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